

U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/014,720
Response to Office Action dated Nov. 1, 2007
Amendment dated Apr. 1, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the previous listing of claims with the following listing of claims.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for an event organizer to arrange the receipt of gifts for the event and services rendered in conjunction with the event, comprising:

creating an on-line database of gifts ~~and services~~ desired by the organizer and services desired by the organizer to be performed at the event,

obtaining a first price for the gifts and services in the database,

enabling access by gift givers to the database,

displaying to the gift givers, the gifts and services in the database and a second price for the gift and services, the second price being greater than the first price, and

enabling the gift givers to select one or more of the gifts and services for purchase on behalf of the organizer, ~~the second price being a suggested retail price greater than to the first price, and~~

upon purchase by each gift giver of the selected one or more of the gifts and services, providing the organizer with funds from each gift giver equal to the second price for the selected one or more of the gifts and services, and

upon receipt by the organizer of funds from the each gift givers giver equal to the second price for the selected one or more of the gifts and services,

~~directing enabling the organizer to direct~~ one of the gift and service providers to forward the ~~selected~~ gift to the organizer or perform the ~~services~~ selected service for the organizer at the event,

determining a difference between the first and second prices upon receipt by the organizer of funds from the gift giver equal to the second price,

~~directing at least part of the difference in price to an account of the organizer, and~~

enabling the organizer to use ~~the~~ at least part of the difference in price to purchase gifts and services in the database prior to the event.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the database comprises:

displaying different categories of gifts and services to the organizer,

enabling the selection of each of the categories of gifts and services, and

for each category, displaying different gifts or services and enabling the selection of each of the gifts and services,

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whereby the organizer is able to select either categories of gift and services for entry into the database, specific gifts and services within each category for entry into the database or a combination thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining a first price for the gifts and services comprises contacting gift and service providers to solicit bids from the gift and service providers.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining a first price for the gifts and services comprises conducting an auction among possible providers to obtain a lowest price for the gifts and services.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
enlisting providers of gifts and services to submit bids for gifts and services listed in ~~said~~ the database, and
electronically notifying the providers when one of the gifts and services provided by the gift and service provider is included in the database.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining a first price for the gifts and services comprises obtaining a price from several gift and service providers for each gift and service, further comprising:
enabling access to ~~said~~ the database by the organizer,
displaying the gifts and services and the prices provided by the gift and service providers, and
enabling the organizer to ~~purchase~~ select from the displayed gifts and services and prices provided by the gift and service providers, the gift and services from any of the gift and service providers that submitted a price for the gift and services to include in the database to be displayed to the gift givers.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the database comprises:
providing a website to enable creation of the database,
displaying options of different gifts and services to the organizer at the website, and

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displaying advertising of providers of gifts and services at the website.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for coordinating payment for products and services in connection with an event, comprising:

creating a database of a finite amount of goods and services desired by an event organizer for use at the event with an associated cost;

embodying the database in computer-readable media;

enabling ~~ethers~~ consumers other than the organizer to access the database and commit to payment for a selected one or more of the desired goods and services;

associating the manner of payment by the consumers other than the organizer with the desired selected one or more of the goods and services; and

upon acceptance by a provider of the selected one or more of the goods and services to the manner of payment associated with the goods and services by the consumers other than organizer,

contractually obligating the provider of the goods and services to deliver the goods for the event and perform the services for at the event,

generating benefit for the event organizer based on the contractual obligation, ~~and~~

enabling the event organizer to use the benefit to obtain goods to be delivered for the event and services for use to be performed at the event, and

removing the selected one or more of the goods and services from the database.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

determining specific events or parties in a specified geographical location within a specified range; and

displaying options to the ~~ethers~~ consumers other than the organizer for payment of the desired goods and services for the specific events or parties determined to be in the specified geographical location within the specified time range.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising soliciting providers of goods and services to commit to provide the goods and services at the associated cost.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of creating a database for the event comprises determining whether a good or service desired for the event is the same ~~or similar~~ to ~~as~~ a good or service desired for another event as contained in a database for the other event, and if so,

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notifying potential providers of the good or services of the presence of multiple requests for the same or similar good or service.

13-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the contractual obligation of the provider of the goods and services to deliver the goods and services for the event is established prior to the event such that the benefit for the event organizer based on the contractual obligation is generated prior to the event and thus the event organizer is enabled to use the benefit to obtain goods and services event prior to the event ~~thereby creating a feedback loop from payment for goods and services to potential use of a benefit generated from such payment to purchase additional goods and services in the database.~~

22. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising when the organizer directs one of the gift and service providers to forward the selected gift to the organizer or perform the selected service for the organizer at the event, providing funds equal to the first price which were received by the organizer from the gift giver to the provider.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising limiting access to the database only to invitees to the event.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
upon access of the gift givers to the database, presenting the gift givers with an option to give a monetary gift to the organizer; and
enabling the organizer to apply the monetary gift to purchase gifts and services in the database or receive cash.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising limiting the gift givers to friends and family of the organizer.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising removing the selected one or more of the gifts and services from the database after purchase by each gift giver on behalf of the organizer such that the selected one or more of the gifts and services are not displayed to subsequent gift givers.

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27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the organizer notifies the gift givers how to access the database.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling the organizer, after receiving funds from the gift giver equal to the second price, to confirm the desirability of the selected one of the gifts or services prior to being forwarded the gift from the provider or the performance of the services at the event.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling the organizer, after receiving funds from the gift giver equal to the second price, to exchange the gift or service selected prior to the event or prior to being forwarded the gift from the provider or the performance of the services at the event.